### Cap Good – AT: Collapse Inevitable

**Capitalism is resilient and no alternative solves – recent economic crisis proves**

Freedman, ‘9. Lawrence, Prof of war studies @ King’s College London. “A Subversive on the Hill,” The National Interest, May-June, Lexis.

And yet, even as we experience a crisis of liberal capitalism, so far the most striking feature of the economic meltdown is the lack of any deep ideological struggle within the advanced capitalist states. The crisis has opened up space for alternatives, but the obvious one—state socialism—was discredited by the Soviet experience. Even with the rebalancing of the relationship between the market and the state, and governments adopting measures that are frankly socialistic, there is no confidence in a socialist ideology; states are determined to get failing banks back into private hands as soon as possible. There are no alternative candidate ideologies with a potentially universal application. When times are hard, as can already be seen, populist, nationalist responses tend to come to the fore, and they can feed on xenophobia; problems are blamed on foreigners or fat cats. This can encourage protectionism, which is economic nationalism. But this is not a viable economic alternative because globalization, and its associated interdependence, is real. However much politicians may demand forms of economic self-reliance or energy independence, autarkic options are barely credible and are apt to backfire when attempted—which is not to say that the attempts won’t be made. Then, of course, there would be the possibility not of a clash of ideologies or even of nationalist economies but of civilizations, along the lines suggested by the late Samuel Huntington. These religion-based civilizations are compatible with a variety of economic and political forms. Potentially the most severe challenge would be posed by radical Islamism, though this has many different, and often contradictory, strands. In some states Islam provides the language of the privileged elite; in others it speaks for the disenfranchised and the marginalized. True, Islamism poses a challenge of sorts to the Western world, but it is of a quite-different nature to that posed by Nazism and Communism. This is not an ideology that has become harnessed to advanced industrial or technological strength, and it is unlikely to be so. Within the major powers, Islam is always going to be a minority identity, even if in many cases it is a growing minority. More so, extreme Islamists are only a minority of the minority. Partly because of their marginal position they turn their anger and violence against those of whom they disapprove, which can be a very broad category, but they have no economic program of which to speak. Where Islamists have had a chance to run countries they have not done very well. So, for all its extremist potential, Islamism will continue to pose security threats to Muslim and Western countries, but it lacks the positive capacity to become a viable competing model. Even China, the supposedly rising power, has wholeheartedly embraced the capitalist model, and the fact that a Communist party remains in charge results in ideological confusion, internal rigidity in the face of assertions of political rights and an absence of a broader appeal. If there were an alternative ideology that offered a compelling explanation for capitalism’s failures and a new way forward, the international position of the United States and its allies would be at risk. As there is not, America has an opportunity to reform capitalism, reassess the relationships between markets and the state, and reassert the strength and flexibility of liberal values and institutions at home while demonstrating caution about the extent to which they can be actively promoted abroad. Liberal capitalism is an elastic ideology. It can spring back because it can take on new forms while staying true to its core principles.

**Collapse not inevitable**

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**Newspaper headlines during the peak of the housing-credit crisis called it “the end of capitalism”** or the end of American capitalism. As often, **they greatly over stated** and misstated **by projecting a serious, temporary decline as a permanent loss of wealth**. **Capitalist systems have weathered many more serious problems**. **Capitalism as a guiding system for economic activity has spread over the centuries to now encompass most of the world’s economies**. This spread occurred despite almost continuous hostility from many intellectuals and, in recent decades, military threat from avowedly Communist countries.